will be diverted for treatment under the second phase of Ganga Action Plan.

Smuggling of Timber in J & K

464. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) deployed in Jammu and Kashmir are indulging in smuggling of timber from the State and are using official vehicles for this purpose;

(b) whether the Forest Department of the State has sought permission to check the vehicles of CRPF and the Army convoys passing through the check posts;

(c) whether the State Forest Department has seized some timber from a CRPF vehicle somtime back;

(d) whether staff of the State Forest Department have already started checking up the vehicle of CRPF in spite of the latter's unwillingness;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the measures proposed to stop smuggling by CRPF personnel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f) CRPF have reported two incidents where their vehicles carrying timber were intercepted by the Forest Department Officials. These vehicles were released on production of documents. The involvement of CRPF officers in transporting timber in Government vehicles is being inquired into separately.

Although no specific permission is reported to have been sought for checking of CRPF vehicles, the Forest Department Officials are already checking vehicles of all security Forces including CRPF. The Government have no objection to such checking. CRPF has also set up a check post at Udhampur to keep a check on such activities.

Increase in Sugar Price

465. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
SHRI MODHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAM DAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the issue price of sugar being sold under the PDs;

(b) the reasons for the increase in price especially when sugar stocks are abounding with high production of sugar in last season;

(c) whether the State Government have been consulted before effecting the price rise;

(d) if not, whether some State Government have represented for maintenance of the earlier price; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the weakei's sections of the society are not hit by the price hike in sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIR'S AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Government of India have decided to fix the retail issue price of sugar to be distributed through the Public Distribution System at Rs. 10.50 per kg., w.e.f. 10.2.1997 for reducing the element of subsidy in the distribution of sugar through Public Distribution System. The retail issue price is *inter-alia* determined on the basis of the statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane. The increase in the retail issue price was necessitated due to the increases in the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane from sugar season 1994-95 onwards, which is determined after consulting the State Governments. The retail issue price of sugar distributed through Public Distribution System is presently subsidised by the Central Government to ensure the availability of sugar to consumers at an affordable price.

[Translation]

Assistance to Voluntary Organisation

466. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some voluntary organisations in Madhya Pradesh are being provided grants-in-aid by the Central Government for the protection of environment;

(b) if so, the names of these organisations indicating the year from which there are being provided grant-in-aid alongwith break up of last three years year-wise;

(c) whether the Government monitor the works executed by them with the funds provided to them under such grants-in-aid; and

(d) if so, the details of the monitoring process ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Smuggling of Bark of Tree

467. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Wanted'. A security